SUBJECTS.

V. *Revenue and Finance.*

39. Fair and equitable distribution of the State finance.

Mr. A. Govinda Menon (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) commented on the working of almost all the departments of the administration in the State. He made several suggestions with regard to the distribution of the State finance. He stated that increased funds were needed for Agriculture and Education. He also suggested increase of pay to the clerical establishments of the Revenue, Judicial and Registration Departments. He said that the lower ranks of the Police and Forest Departments were very poorly paid. In his opinion, the pay of a Constable should not be less than Rs. 9; and he considered that Guards, Foresters and Rangers should be more liberally treated than they were at present, in order to minimise smuggling. He represented that the sum allotted under public works for purely agricultural purposes should be considerably increased, and the needs of the ryots of Middle and North Travancore, whose interests had hitherto been practically neglected, should be looked into specially. In order to economise expenditure and to meet the needs of the people according to the order of their importance and urgency, the allotments for all kinds of minor works in each division should be spent through a Board, consisting of the Representatives of the taluks, the Chief Engineer, the local Executive Engineer, and the Dewan Peishkar of the Division. He proposed that the development of the vast fisheries in the State should be taken in hand without delay. As a source of revenue, the manufacture of salt in our Allams would, if properly attended to, play an important part in the future. The exploitation by the State of the mineral resources of the country was another source of income which had not received due attention at the hands of the Government.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

40. Excise policy of Government

Mr. A. Govinda Menon (Member, Kunnatnad Taluk) suggested that

(1) the principle recognised by the British Government, *viz.*, that the consumption of spirituous liquors should be decreased, by increasing their price and by limiting the number of shops, might be adopted,

(2) the drawing of sweet toddy for *chackara* or *karipatti* should be freely encouraged by Government, and

(3) the sale of spirituous liquors in public places and places of worship should be prohibited.

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